



2014-01

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES
AMERICA'S RIGHT TO VOTE FOR
THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF**

WHEREAS, the "Right to Vote" is the essence of America's form of government, and;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) recognizes the importance of federal and state constitutional rights of Americans to elect local, state and federal officials. The elected Sheriff is directly accountable and responsible to the will of the people to provide public safety/law enforcement in their local communities, and;

WHEREAS, for over 350 years in America, the elected Sheriff has not been directly controlled by county boards or executives. Over **90%** of America's 3,083 Sheriffs are directly elected by voters to perform the public safety activities and law enforcement duties, and;

WHEREAS, in forty-six (46) states, the election of the local Sheriff is the primary means used to administer local public safety and law enforcement. Throughout America, the Sheriff is deemed to be the "Chief Law Enforcement Officer" in most of our Nation's local jurisdictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that America's Election of the Office of Sheriff should continue as:

1. The Sheriff is "directly responsible" to the local citizenry. The Public is the ultimate source of any Office of Sheriff's legal authority, duties and responsibilities.
2. In nearly all the United States, the Office of Sheriff is not a "Department" subject to the direct authority/control on a day-to-day basis by a county board of supervisors or executives.
3. The Office of Sheriff protects the Public from undue political influence on a day-to-day basis on local law enforcement and public safety issues.
4. Our Nation's government provides a system of checks and balances on the authority of the Office of Sheriff. The Public may directly remove a Sheriff for misfeasance or nonfeasance of duty/authority through the ballot.
5. Under our Nation's form of government, voters enjoy U.S. and State Constitutional rights to vote in determining who will serve as their officials, including the Sheriff.

6. The election of the Office of Sheriff is consistent with our Nation's democratic traditions and historical political practices.